India's share in the global exports of herbal medicines is low as till now the production of herbal medicine has been in unorganized sector with traditional methods.

(c) Following steps have been taken to increase production of herbal medicines:

(i) Mandatory testing of metals in all purely herbal ASU medicines for exports *w.e.f.* 01.01.2006 onwards.

(ii) Testing facilities for ASU durgs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories and accredition of private drug testing laboratories.

(iii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU durg manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161(1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantify of each of the ingredients incorporated there. The relaxation in labeling provision have been made for the export of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies. Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(v) Government of India has initiated awareness programmes for educating the industry through its Export Promotion Council, Pharmexcil. Besides, Government has introduced Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories.

Sponsor of Journalists by MOD

†306. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether visits of journalists are sponsored by the Ministry of Defence; and

(b) if so, the number of journalist from print media as well as electronic media sent for these visits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2006-2007, 304 Print and 197 Electronic Media journalists were taken by the Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence for coverage of various Defence events at home and abroad. During the current financial year, till date, the corresponding figures are 104 and 76 respectively.

Manufacture of Cabins of Stallion and LPTA Vehicles

307. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one hydraulic press was commissioned in May, 2003 for in-house manufacture of cabins of Stallion and LPTA transport vehicles in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the cost of the same;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.